

# What we know about the Pfizer **COVID-19 VACCINE**

The Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine received FDA approval for emergency use; the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) will continue to watch for and report harmful side effects. Based on current supply, a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) advisory committee created recommendations on who should get the vaccine.

**Below is what we currently know about the Pfizer vaccine:**

- Based on the research and data from clinical trials, the vaccine is about 95% effective.
- Building on research from previous coronavirus vaccines, the COVID-19 vaccine uses new technology. Rather than use a live virus, the body uses a genetic code of the virus to make viral protein. These viral proteins help create an immune response to protect from COVID-19.
- Approved for use in people 12 years and older. More time and research is needed to determine if it is safe and effective for younger people.
- Pregnant and breastfeeding women should discuss their options with their health care provider.
- CDC recommends everyone gets vaccinated even if you have had a previous COVID-19 infection.
- The vaccine is a two-dose series injected into the muscle, given three weeks apart. A person must receive two doses of the vaccine to ensure maximum protection.
- After getting the vaccine, side effects might include fatigue, headache, fever, chills, nausea, muscle pain, and joint pain. These side effects show that the vaccine is working. In very rare cases, the vaccine causes a severe allergic reaction.
- The vaccine is free for those who want to get it.
- Everyone who receives the vaccine will get a vaccination card showing which vaccine and lot number they received and the date they need to return for their second dose.

**Sources:**

**Texas Department of State Health Services**